

# THE SPOTLight

News From Councilmember Sherri Lightner  
City of San Diego, District One

April 9, 2012

## Representing the communities of:

- Black Mountain Ranch
- Carmel Valley
- Del Mar Mesa
- La Jolla
- Pacific Highlands Ranch
- Rancho Peñasquitos
- Torrey Highlands
- Torrey Hills
- Torrey Pines
- University City

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## Connecting to Careers: Closing San Diego's Skills Gap

Sherri knows that having a skilled workforce is the key to growing San Diego's economy now and into the future.

She is spearheading a "Connecting to Careers" initiative designed to bring all the stakeholders to the table to find a solution to the city's workforce training needs.

As a first step, Sherri invited local business leaders, including representatives from Qualcomm, Sharp Health-Care, Biocom and AT&T, to meet with representatives from San Diego State University, UC San Diego, San Diego Community College District and San Diego Workforce Partnership, which funds a wide variety of training pro-

grams in the region.

The event was a great success, helping forge relationships and spotlighting the need for better communication and cooperation.

"We need to work together to get San Diegans working," Sherri said.

Next up, Sherri plans to hold "Skills Sessions," panels made up of businesses and educators and training partners. These panels will help create curriculum and programs for the most in-demand skills in such industry sectors as manufacturing, cleantech and biotech.

Sherri also plans to host a "Training Fair" this summer,



*Sherri announcing the "Connecting to Careers" initiative with Council President Tony Young, Councilmember Lorie Zapf and local business leaders and education and training providers.*

which will highlight the hottest local jobs and connect students and job seekers to the right training programs for those jobs.

To find out more about Connecting to Careers, click [here](#).

## Sherri's Top Budget Priorities

With the city's finances slowly improving, Sherri is approaching the coming budget with a sense of cautious optimism.

Her priorities for the coming year are to:

- Assure financial stability by creating a reserve fund

to help smooth out any potential spikes in pension payments or retiree healthcare that may occur.

- Improve infrastructure with increased funding for deferred projects such as street repairs.

- Responsibly restore and improve service levels, including adding cadet positions at police and fire academies, restoring lifeguard positions and increasing hours at libraries and rec centers as revenue allows.

## Fire Pits: City Restores Funding



*Sherri helping announce that the city was once again able to fund its fire pits at a press conference in Mission Bay.*

Serving as a hopeful indication of a better fiscal outlook, the City of San Diego can once again take responsibility for maintaining its fire pits.

There will be no more scrambling for an anonymous donor or asking our citizens to donate to the cause.

To celebrate this important milestone, Sherri joined Mayor Jerry Sanders, Council President

Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer and Joe Terzi, president and CEO of the San Diego Convention and Visitor's Bureau, on March 13.

In the past, Sherri had donated funds from her office budget to maintain the fire pits because she knew how important they are to all San Diegans and our local beach culture.

The fact that the city could not fund the fire pits in the past

was evidence of just how dire its financial picture was.

Sherri said the restoration of funding for fire pits is a symbol of something much larger.

"These fire pits affirm what is special and unique about this city," said Sherri. "But they also prove something just as important – a sign that our financial recovery is truly heating up."

*"As I've said before, I don't think any of us decided to run for City Council for the money."*

## City Council Rejects Pay Increase

Sherri joined her colleagues in unanimously rejecting an independent commission's proposed pay increase for the San Diego City Council and Mayor.

The salary setting commission had recommended that City Council annual salaries should increase from \$75,000 to \$175,00 and that the Mayor's

salary should be bumped up from \$100,000 to \$235,000 per year.

Sherri said even discussing a pay raise as the city works to get its financial house in order sends the wrong message to the citizens of San Diego.

"As I have said before, I don't

think any of us decided to run for City Council for the money," Sherri said.

She added that the focus should be on fixing our finances, improving our infrastructure, funding our libraries and rec centers and boosting our public safety.

## West UC Neighborhood Undergrounding Project Complete



*Sherri looks on as crews remove the final utility pole in a UC neighborhood.*

Sherri helped celebrate the completion of a long-running utilities undergrounding project in a west UC neighborhood with the removal of the final utility pole in the area on March 13.

In all, the project placed approximately 3.43 miles of utilities lines underground, planted

115 shade trees and installed 48 new street lights for 448 residents north of Pennant Way, between Stresemann Street and Regents Road. Street resurfacing will be completed soon.

This project is an important component of the city's long-

range plan to replace unsightly overhead power and communication lines with a safer and more reliable underground system.

Currently, the city is relocating approximately 30 to 35 miles of overhead utility lines underground each year.

## Senior Transportation Comes to Carmel Valley

Currently, Carmel Valley has no access to public transportation.

That fact makes it costly and complicated for area seniors who do not drive to do such simple tasks as go grocery shopping or get to a doctor's appointment.

At the request of Julie Saltman, an 88-year-old Carmel Valley resident, Sherri worked with Jewish Family Service and the San Diego Association of Governments to fund an expansion

of Rides & Smiles, an innovative volunteer program that provides transportation to local seniors.

To help celebrate the service coming to Carmel Valley, Sherri gave the inaugural ride to Julie Saltman and her husband, William, on March 9.

"Access to transportation is a critical issue for Carmel Valley seniors. Right now, it is difficult for many seniors without cars to do the everyday things many

of us take for granted," Sherri said. "Kudos to Julie for her leadership on this issue and thanks to Jewish Family Service and SANDAG for their help in making this happen."

Jewish Family Service hopes to provide some 6,500 rides to seniors in the northern San Diego region this year but still needs more volunteers to meet this goal. To find out how you can help, visit [www.jfssd.org/onthego](http://www.jfssd.org/onthego) or call (877) 634-6537.



*Sherri providing the inaugural Rides & Smiles trip, taking to Julie and William Saltman to the grocery store on March 9.*

## UC Library Parking Lot Gets a Facelift

Over the past few years, the parking lot at the University Community Library has turned to gravel.

To help solve the problem, Sherri recently used funds from her office budget to pay for the resurfacing of the parking

lot. The resurfacing was completed in March, and the parking lot is much improved.



*Before*

*After*



*"Sherri recently used money from her office budget to pay for the resurfacing of the library parking lot."*

## Science Festival EXPO Day a Huge Hit

Sherri was one of more than 27,000 people who made this year's San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering EXPO Day on March 24 a great success.

Sherri and attendees were treated to more than 100 interactive exhibits designed to get children of all ages excited

about science and engineering.

Sherri, who serves on the Festival's executive committee, is a big proponent of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education and is always looking for ways to encourage young people to focus on these important skills.

Next year's festival is scheduled for March 16 to March 23, with EXPO DAY set for Saturday, March 23 at PETCO Park. Mark your calendars now!

For more information, click [here](#).



*Sherri with some of the EXPO Day participants.*

## Update: One Paseo Project



*The One Paseo project is moving through the community planning process. Now is your chance to give your feedback.*

The draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for the proposed One Paseo project in Carmel Valley has been released.

Understanding the significance of this multi-use project to the community, Sherri asked for an extension on the review period from 45 days to 90 days. The city ultimately agreed on a 60-day review period that will officially end **May 29**. You can review the draft report by clicking [here](#) and clicking the California Environ-

mental Quality Act (CEQA) Notices and Documents link. You can submit your comments to [DSDEAS@sanidiego.gov](mailto:DSDEAS@sanidiego.gov). Include the project name "One Paseo" and the project number "193036/SCH No. 2" in the subject line. You can also mail your comments to:  
Martha Blake  
Environmental Planner  
City of San Diego  
Development Services Center  
1222 First Avenue, MS 501  
San Diego, CA 92101

Both the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board and its Regional Issues Subcommittee will be reviewing the DEIR and the One Paseo project at public community meetings. After the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board makes its final recommendation, the project will go before the city's Planning Commission, followed by the San Diego City Council.

Sherri welcomes all community input on One Paseo.

*Sherri is a champion of the San Dieguito River Valley and encourages everyone to explore all it has to offer.*

## San Dieguito Lagoon Opens Two New Trails

Sherri joined members of the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority and the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy on March 17 as they celebrated the completion and opening of two new trail segments at the San Dieguito Lagoon.

The San Dieguito River Valley is one of the region's true gems,

stretching 55 miles from the ocean at Del Mar to Volcan Mountain north of Julian.

Sherri encourages everyone to explore all the San Dieguito River Valley has to offer.

For more information and to learn about how to get involved, visit the San Diego River

Valley Conservancy website at <http://sdrvc.org/>.



*These pavers not only look good but also help prevent harmful storm water runoff from reaching the ocean.*

## Kellogg Park Parking Lot Project Nears Completion

The Kellogg Park Parking Lot project in La Jolla Shores is nearing completion.

This important storm water project, which was funded with state grants, is all about helping prevent pollution from reaching the ocean and protecting some

of the most pristine and biologically diverse sections of California's coast.

To do that, asphalt was removed and replaced with pavement designed to capture a large amount of storm water runoff. Attractive new land-

scaping and a trash bin enclosure were installed to further aid in runoff control.

The only remaining work is resurfacing and restriping the parking lot, which is scheduled to occur just before Memorial Day and the summer season.



## Sherri Around Town in March



Mayor Jerry Sanders joined Sherri at a joint luncheon of the La Jolla Kiwanis and the La Jolla Rotary on March 9.

Sherri attended the San Diego Mayor's Cyber Cup Challenge, which is part of the city's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) outreach program for middle and high school students, on March 10.



One of the highlights of Sherri's month was reading to a second grade class at La Jolla Elementary as part of its "Readers are Leaders" program on March 14.

Sherri was honored to receive the "Samaja Seva Ratna" award from the Indian Fine Arts Academy San Diego at their 5th Annual Indian Music and Dance Festival on March 31.



## Save the La Jolla Post Office

The U.S. Postal Service has set a date for the La Jolla community meeting to discuss their planned sale of the historic post office on Wall Street.

This meeting is the first step in the U.S. Postal Service's process to sell the property and relocate the post office to help bolster the Postal Service's own financial performance.

This meeting will be your one chance to directly voice your concerns about the proposed sale as well as ask questions of U.S. Postal Service representatives.

We need everyone in the community to come out to show how much this post office means to La Jolla's residents and businesses.

### Meeting Details:

**Where:** Cuvier Club at 7776 Eads Avenue, La Jolla

**When:** Thursday, April 26 at 6 p.m.

**Who:** Diana Alvarado, vice president of Facilities for the U.S. Postal Service.

To learn more about the community's efforts, please visit: [www.savelajollapostoffice.org](http://www.savelajollapostoffice.org).

*"We need everyone in the community to come out to show how much this post office means to La Jolla."*

## Local Business Spotlight: Davanti Enoteca and Mia Francesca

Every month Sherri likes to highlight a new or unique business in District 1. Here's this month's selection:

**Who:** Davanti Enoteca and Mia Francesca

**Where:** Del Mar Highlands Town Center

12925 El Camino Real  
San Diego, CA 92130

**What you'll find:** Two great Italian-inspired restaurants connected by a single entrance. Davanti Enoteca is a wine bar with lighter, small plate fare while Mia Francesca offers more traditional Italian comfort

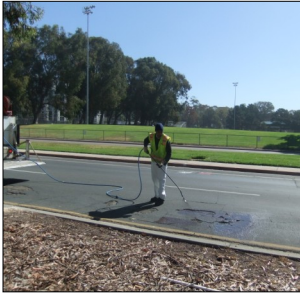
food.

**The upside:** Owner Scott Harris, a part-time resident of Del Mar Highlands, was looking to expand his successful Chicago-based restaurant chain closer to home. The restaurants opened in late February and employ more than 100 people.



Two new Italian-inspired restaurants with one entrance have opened up at Del Mar Highlands Town Center.

## Working for You in the Community



*Need assistance in getting a pothole fixed? Call Sherri's office at (619) 236-6611. We are here to help.*

Helping constituents get potholes filled, streetlights fixed and other neighborhood repairs is one of Sherri's top priorities. Here is a sampling of projects her office worked on this past month:

### Potholes

- La Jolla Village Drive at Villa La Jolla
- Torrey Pines Road at Ivanhoe Avenue

### Cleanups and Repair

- Weeds sprayed on sidewalk on northbound Regents Road from SR-52 to Governor Drive
- Weeds sprayed along Governor Drive median from Mercer Street to the end

- Basketball rim replaced at Carmel Valley Rec Center
- Stop sign restored at Fay Avenue and Kline Street
- Red curb striping repainted on Science Park Road
- Palm trees obstructing stop sign trimmed at Pearl Street and Olivetas Avenue
- Vegetation obstructing street name signs trimmed at Lipmann and Rous Streets
- Weeds and debris removed on Del Mar Heights Road

### Streetlights and Traffic Signals

- Shade installed on new

streetlight at 10676 Gracewood Place

- Shade installed on streetlight in front of 7415 Olivetas Ave.
- Streetlight installed on Award Row
- Streetlight repaired at Aranda Avenue and Scarlati Place
- Worked with Caltrans to improve traffic at the I-15 South on-ramp at Rancho Peñasquitos Boulevard

The speed limit on E. Ocean Air Drive will soon be lowered from 40 mph to 35 mph. New speed limit signs will be installed in about a month.

Sherri is on the Web at [sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd1/](http://sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd1/)

Follow Sherri:



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SherriLightner](http://www.facebook.com/SherriLightner)



Twitter: [www.twitter.com/#!/SherriLightner](http://www.twitter.com/#!/SherriLightner)



**Councilmember  
Sherri Lightner — District 1**

202 C Street, MS 10-A  
San Diego, CA 92101

Phone: 619-236-6611  
Fax: 619-236-6999  
E-mail:  
[serrilightner@sandiego.gov](mailto:sherrilightner@sandiego.gov)

### Your Community Representatives

If you have a concern or question about an issue in your neighborhood, please contact our constituent services representative, Janie Hoover, or your community representative. We're here to help!

#### Torrey Hills / Constituent Services (street repairs, water leaks, traffic issues, code compliance, etc.)

Janie Hoover      [jmhoover@sandiego.gov](mailto:jmhoover@sandiego.gov)      (619) 236-6611

#### La Jolla

Erin Demorest      [edemorest@sandiego.gov](mailto:edemorest@sandiego.gov)      (619) 236-6611

#### Black Mountain Ranch / Rancho Peñasquitos / Torrey Highlands

Stephen Heverly      [sheverly@sandiego.gov](mailto:sheverly@sandiego.gov)      (619) 236-6611

#### Torrey Pines

Mo Kantner      [mkantner@sandiego.gov](mailto:mkantner@sandiego.gov)      (619) 236-6611

#### University City / UCSD

Jesse Mays      [jmays@sandiego.gov](mailto:jmays@sandiego.gov)      (619) 236-6611

#### Carmel Valley / Pacific Highlands Ranch / Del Mar Mesa

Mel Millstein      [mmillstein@sandiego.gov](mailto:mmillstein@sandiego.gov)      (619) 236-6611